

Message Text

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05277 01 OF 02 150202 Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 SR-02 ORM-03 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 L-03 PRS-01

IO-12 RSR-01 /085 W

----- 060975

R 101610 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8652

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 5277

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, US, OVIP

SUBJ: LINDSAY VISIT WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS --
SOVIET JEWRY

1. SUMMARY: MAYOR LINDSAY HAD ONE HOUR MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS SHUMILIN ON MAY 8, DEVOTED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO QUESTION OF JEWISH EMIGRATION. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT SUBSTANCE OF CONVERSATION WOULD REMAIN STRICTLY RPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. (MAYOR LINDSAY HAS ACCORDINGLY REQUESTED THAT CONTENTS THIS MESSAGE BE CLOSELY HELD.) SHUMILIN TOLD MAYOR THAT QUESTION OF JEWISH EMIGRATION REMAINS UNDER REVIEW AND HELD OUT HOPE THAT FURTHER PROGRESS OVER ISSUE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. SHUMILIN SPECIFICALLY CONFIRMED THAT EDUCATION LEVY NOT BEING APPLIED AND SAID IT WOULD NOT BE COLLECTED IN FUTURE. SHUMILIN CLAIMED THAT MORE THAN 98 PERCENT OF APPLICANTS FOR EXIT VISAS RECEIVE PERMISSION TO LEAVE FOR ISRAEL AND SAID ONLY GROUNDS FOR EXIT REFUSALS ARE RECENT MILITARY SERVICE, ACCESS TO STATE SECRETS AND EMPLOYMENT IN IMPORTANT NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES. THESE REFUSALS, HOWEVER, GENERALLY ONLY TEMPORARY IN NATURE, AND APPLICANTS CAN REAPPLY FOR EMIGRATION AT LATER DATE WHEN INFORMATION THEY POSSESS NO LONGER CONSTITUTES PROBLEM FOR NATIONAL INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

2. MAYOR LINDSAY, ACCOMPANIED BY TWO AIDES, SEYMOUR GRAUBARD OF B' NAI B' RITH ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE, AND EMBOFF, CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05277 01 OF 02 150202 Z

HAD ONE HOUR CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS BORIS T. SHUMILIN ON MAY 8. FROM SOVIET SIDE, IN ADDITION TO SHUMILIN, WERE GENERAL T. M. SHUKAYEV, DEPUTY CHIEF OF MILITIA ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTORATE OF

MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS (MVD), A. V. VEREIN, CHIEF OF ALL- UNION OVIR OF MVD, A. A. TKACHEV, CHIEF OF FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF MVD, AND K. V. NERSESYAN, OFFICIAL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF MVD.

3. AFTER EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, DURING WHICH MAYOR EXTENDED INVITATION TO SHUMILIN TO VISIT NEW YORK AT CONVENIENT TIME, MAYOR DIRECTED CONVERSATION TO SUBJECT OF SOVIET JEWRY. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING SOVIET- US BILATERAL RELATIONS ON BROAD FRONT AND ARGUED THAT EVERYTHING THAT IS DONE ON POLITICAL BASIS TO REMOVE MISUNDERSTANDINGS, FEARS AND DOUBTS ASSISTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RELATIONS. MAYOR SPECIFICALLY CALLED FOR EXPANDED COMMERCIAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND TOURIST TIES BETWEEN NEW YORK AND USSR.

4. THE MAYOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MUCH HAS BEEN DONE TO EASE THE PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWS DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS. HE NOTED THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS IN THE FACE OF CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES TO PERMIT A STEADY FLOW OF SOVIET JEWS TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL. HAVING DONE THIS, HE COMMENTED THAT THE SOVIETS MUST FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHEN PEOPLE ASK THEM TO DO EVEN MORE.

5. RECONGNIZING THAT PROBLEM OF JEWISH EMIGRATION PRIMARILY A SOVIET INTERNAL QUESTION, LINDSAY POINTED OUT THAT IT NEVERTHELESS REMAINS A POLITICAL PROBLEM IN TERMS OF US- SOVIET BILATERAL RELATIONS AND CONSEQUENTLY ONE WITH WHICH POLITICIANS ON BOTH SIDES MUST DEAL. REPRESENTING THE POPULATION OF NEW YORK, LINDSAY STRESSED TO SHUMILIN THE CONCERN THE PEOPLE OF HIS CITY HAVE OVER THE OBSTACLES PLACED IN THE PATH OF SOVIET JEWS WISHING TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL. HE STRESSED HIS CONVICTION THAT IT WOULD BE VERY POSITIVE STEP IN RELATIONS BETWEEN MOSCOW AND NEW YORK AND BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE US IF THE SOVIETS WOULD TAKE FURTHER STEPS TO LIBERALIZE THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD JEWISH EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. THE MAYOR COMMENTED THAT POLITICAL PRICE OF SUCH A MOVE WOULD
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 05277 01 OF 02 150202 Z

BE SMALL IN TERMS OF GOOD WILL TOWARD USSR WHICH WOULD BE ENGENDERED.

6. CONTINUING HIS PRESENTATION, LINDSAY SAID AMERICANS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND SOVIET RESTRICTIONS ON EMIGRATION SINCE THEY FOREIGN TO THEIR WAY OF THINKING. THIS ESPECIALLY TRUE AMONG JEWISH POPOLATION SINCE THEY PARTICULARLY RECALL THE HISTORY OF RESPRESSION OF THEIR PEOPLE. AMERICAN PEOPLE WELCOME THE SUSPENSION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE EDUCATION TAX, BUT THEY FEEL THAT THERE IS MUCH MORE THAT THE SOVIETS SHOULD DO. OF PARTICULAR CONCERN IS HARASSMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WHO APPLY TO EMIGRATE AND APPARENTLY ARBITRARY REFUSAL WITHOUT ANY VALID EXPLANATION, OF EXIT PERMISSION TO NUMBER OF PEOPLE

WHO HAVE APPLIED TO EMIGRATE. THE MAYOR STRESSED THE VALUE OF CLEARLY SETTING FORTH THE RULES AND CRITERIAL APPLYING TO SOVIET EMIGRATION IN ORDER THAT CASES OF BUREAURCRATIC ARBITRARINESS, ABOUT WHICH MANY AMERICANS ARE NOW CONCERNED, ARE ELIMINATED.

7. IN CONCLUDING, MAYOR REITERATED GREAT CONCERN OF NEW YORKERS AND INDEED ALL AMERICANS OVER ISSUE OF SOVIET JEWRY. IN PARTICULAR MAYOR WISHED TO REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION ON SPECIFICS OF SOVIET

EMIGRATION POLICY AND IN THIS RESPECT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM SHUMILIN RESPONSE TO PRIVATE LETTER ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH HE PASSED TO DEPUTY MINISTER. ADDITIONALLY, MAYOR HAD SECOND LETTER TO SHUMILIN CONTAINING NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS DESIRING TO EMIGRATE EITHER TO ISRAEL OR TO THE US IN WHOM NEW YORKERS, PRIMARILY BY REASON OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, HAD PERSONAL INTEREST.

8. RESPONDING TO MAYOR'S PRESENTATION, SHUMILIN SAID THAT MAYOR HAD GONE INTO GREAT DETAIL AND SOVIETS HAD LISTENED TO HIM WITH GREAT INTEREST. CONCERNING IMPROVED SOVIET- US RELATIONS, THE SOVIET PEOPLE WELCOME THIS DEVELOPMENT, AND THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN TAKING ADDITIONAL STEPS TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS. ON THE SPECIFICS OF MAYOR'S PRESENTATION, SHUMILIN SAID THAT THERE WERE FOLLOWING THREE MAJOR QUESTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN RAISED TO WHICH HE WOULD RESPOND: A. EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS TO ISRAEL; B. TRAVEL OF SOVIET TOURISTS TO NEW YORK; AND
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 05277 01 OF 02 150202 Z

C. SPECIFIC CASES CONTAINED IN TWO LETTERS WHICH MAYOR HAD PRESENTED. BEFORE ANSWERING THESE, SHUMILIN ASKED MAYOR SEVERAL QUESTIONS FROM NEW YORK TO ISRAEL, AND STEPS ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TAKING IN US TO ENCOURAGE EMIGRATION FROM AMERICA TO ISRAEL.

NOTE: EXDIS CAPTION DELETED PER S/S- O MR KURZE

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZADP000

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05277 02 OF 02 150204 Z

70
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 SR-02 ORM-03 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 L-03 PRS-01

IO-12 RSR-01 /085 W
----- 060995

R 101610 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8653

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 5277

9. CONCERNING GENERAL EMIGRATION POLICIES OF USSR, SHUMILIN CHARACTERIZED COUNTRY AS " YOUNG" IN FIELD OF EMIGRATION PRACTICES. ASIDE FROM IMMEDIATE POST- WAR PERIOD WHEN SUBSTANTIAL EMIGRATION OCCURED AS RESULT OF DISLOCATIONS CAUSED BY HOSTILITIES, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE EMIGRATION FROM COUNTRY. CONSEQUENTLY, HE CONTINUED, SOVIETS LACK SOME DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY APPEAR AS THEIR EXPERIENCE GROWS. ON SPECIFICS OF JEWISH EMIGRATIONS, SHUMILIN SAID SOVIET POSITION IS WELL KNOWN, AND HE REFERRED TO HIS WIDELY DISSEMINATED INTERVIEW OF LAST DECEMBER OF EXPLANATION OF POLICY.

10. SHUMILIN ASSURED THE MAYOR THAT SOVIETS NOW STUDYING QUESTION OF JEWISH EMIGRATION CAREFULLY, AND NOTED THAT CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES CALL FOR ADJUSTMENTS IN POLICY. HE NOTED THAT CONTINUED LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM COMPLICATED ISSUE. SHUMILIN ASSERTED THAT RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM WOULD PROVIDE EASY ANSWER TO MANY QUESTIONS REGARDING JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM USSR TO ISRAEL. NEVERTHELESS, SOVIETS, INSPITE OF DIFFICULTIES, CONSIDER REQUESTS OF INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO EMIGRATE TO JOIN RELATIVES IN ISRAEL. OVERALL POLICY IS DETERMINED IN LIGHT OF SOVIET NATIONAL INTERESTS AND ALSO IN TERMS OF FOREIGN INTERESTS, INCLUDING SUCH FACTORS AS SOVIET- US RELATIONS.

11. SHUMILIN TOLD MAYOR THAT MORE THAN 98 RPT 98 PERCENT
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05277 02 OF 02 150204 Z

OF ALL THOSE APPLYING TO EMIGRATE HAVE RECEIVED PERMISSION TO LEAVE FOR ISRAEL. OF THE LESS THAN TWO PERCENT WHO HAVE BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION, SUCH ACTION WAS TAKEN ON ONE OF THREE GROUNDS: A. RECENT MILITARY SERVICE; B. ACCESS TO NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION; C. WORK IN IMPORTANT NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES. SHUMILIN CHARACTERIZED MOST OF THESE REFUSALS AS BEING TEMPORARY IN NATURE AND HELD OUT HOPE THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE RECEIVED REFUSALS WOULD EVENTUALLY RECEIVE EMIGRATION PERMISSION WHEN INFORMATION THEY POSSESS NO LONGER WOULD JEOPARDIZE NATIONAL INTERESTS. SHUMILIN TOLD LINDSAY THAT NUMBER OF NOW APPLICANTS TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL EACH MONTH NOT GROWING; IN FACT, NUMBER DURING LAST TWO MONTHS HAS DROPPED. HE NOTED THAT APPROXIMATELY 28,000 PEOPLE EMIGRATED FROM USSR TO ISRAEL LAST YEAR.

12. REGARDING EMIGRATION TAX, SHUMILIN OBSERVED THAT LAW ADOPTED LAST YEAR GIVES AUTHORITIES RIGHT WAIVE COLLECTION OF FEE. HE SAID SOVIETS HAVE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY

APPLICABILITY OF LAW TO JEWS LEAVING FOR ISRAEL, AND HE CONFIRMED THAT LEVY HAS NOT BEEN COLLECTED FOR LAST TWO MONTHS. SHUMILIN FLATLY ASSERTED THAT HE DID NOT FORESEE ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WOULD CHANGE THIS SITUATION.

13. IN CONNECTION WITH TOURISM TO NEW YORK, SHUMILIN DID NOT RECALL ANY CASES IN WHICH SOVIET CITIZENS HAVE COMPLAINED TO MINISTRY OVER FAILURE TO RECEIVE PERMISSION TO TRAVEL TO NEW YORK AS TOURISTS. NEVERTHELESS, HE WOULD ASK THE MINISTRY'S RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS FOR REPORT ON THIS QUESTION. HE NOTED THAT TOURISM ABROAD IS NEW FEATURE IN SOVIET LIFE, AND THAT PROBLEMS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE STILL CREATE NEED FOR CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.

14. ON SPECIFIC QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN TWO LETTERS MAYOR HAD PRESENTED, SHUMILIN SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE WRITTEN REPLIES AT LATER DATE. INDICATION WAS THAT RESPONSE WOULD BE CHANNLED THROUGH SOVIET UN AMBASSADOR MALIK.

15. RETURNING TO JEWISH ISSUE, SHUMILIN CLAIMED THAT MANY ARTIFICIAL ARGUMENTS HAD BEEN INTRODUCED INTO SITUATION. HE ASSERTED THAT EMIGRATION FIGURES SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES AND ASSURED MAYOR THAT AS US- SOVIET BILATERAL RELATIONS EXPAND, CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 05277 02 OF 02 150204 Z

SOVIETS WOULD CONTINUE WORKING TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS. SHUMILIN ALSO CALLED MAYOR'S ATTENTION TO BEHAVIOR OF GROUP FROM NEW YORK WHO RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED AT MOSCOW OVIR OFFICE CAUSING DAMAGE TO FACILITIES AND INTERRUPTING WORK OF EMPLOYEES. ASERTING THAT SUCH ACTIONS ARE NOT IN ACCORD WITH DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, SHUMILIN DESCRIBED MODERATE SOVIET REACTION WHICH LED TO QUICK RELEASE.

16. LINDSAY RESPONDED THAT RUDE BEHAVIOR CAN NEVER BE CONDONED. HE ADDED THAT HE BELIEVES IN QUIET DIPLOMACY BUT, SPEAKING FRANKLY, HE FINDS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE HOW PEOPLE GENERALLY COULD HAVE BEEN MORE QUIET IN DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE. IN CLOSING LINDSAY ASKED WHETHER IT IS TRUE THAT ONLY TEN PERCENT OF ALL APPLICANTS FROM MOSCOW HAVE RECEIVED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE. (SHUMILIN AND HIS AIDES CATEGORICALLY DENIED THIS STATING THAT THE RATE OF THOSE RECEIVING PERMISSION IS MUCH HIGHER.) HE ALSO NOTED THAT WHILE IT USELESS TO ARGUE ABOUT FACTS, THERE SEEMED TO BE NO DOUBT THAT THE RIGHT OF FREEDOM OF EMIGRATION NOT ADHERRED TO IN USSR. HE REASSURED SHUMILIN THAT THE CONVERSATION, AS WELL AS THE RESPONSE TO HIS LETTERS, WOULD REMAIN STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

17. MAYOR LINDSAY HAS READ DRAFT OF THIS MESSAGE AND HAS ASKED WHETHER DEPARTMENT CAN MAKE COPY AVAILABLE FOR HIS PERSONAL USE ONLY. DUBS

NOTE: EXDIS CAPTION DELETED PER S/ S- O MR KURZE

CONFIDENTIAL

NMAFVVZCZ

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW05277
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730560/abqcefzl.tel
Line Count: 273
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Sep-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <30-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980127
Subject: LINDSAY VISIT WITHDEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS -- SOVIET JEWRY
TAGS: OVIP, US, PINT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005